

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STOCKH 00792 190826Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 NIC-01 /063 W

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R 190630Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3964

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DOD WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, XZ, FI, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH AND FINNISH LEADERS REJECT FINNISH SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATIC CRITICISM OF SWEDISH NEUTRALITY

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 778, (B) STOCKHOLM 749, (C) HELSINKI 313

1. THE CONTROVERSY OVER FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CRITICISM OF SWEDISH NEUTRALITY (REFTELS) CONTINUED THIS WEEK. THE SWEDISH PRESS REPORTED THAT THE YOUNG FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRAT M.P., ERKKI TUOMIOJA, HAD RAISED THE QUESTION AT THE NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING IN REYKJAVIK, CITING SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN THE STARFIGHTER REPLACEMENT COMPETITION, ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE IEA, AND GENERAL SYNNERGREN'S MILITARY REVIEW, AS INDICATIONS THAT SWEDEN APPEARED TO BE MOVING AWAY FROM ITS TRADITIONAL NEUTRALITY.

2. THE TUOMIOJA REMARKS PROMPTED A RESPONSE FROM SWEDISH  
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00792 190826Z

PRIME MINISTER PALME. IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW AT

KASTRUP AIRPORT IN COPENHAGEN CARRIED ON SWEDISH RADIO FEB. 18, PALME DISMISSED TUOMIOJA'S COMMENTS AND THE EARLIER FINNISH PRESS CRITICISM AS NOT TRULY REFLECTING THE VIEWS OF THE FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. PALME SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION "ONLY IN PASSING" WITH FINNISH PRIME MINISTER SORSA AT A BRIEF MEETING IN COPENHAGEN FOLLOWING THE REYKJAVIK COUNCIL MEETING AND THAT BOTH LEADERS HAD AGREED "NOT TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF THIS MATTER." ALLUDING TO YOUNG TUOMIOJA, THE SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OBSERVED THAT YOUNG POLITICIANS "OCCASIONALLY MAKE SOME HIGH-SPIRITED REMARKS," WHICH HE SUGGESTED SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY. ASKED ABOUT CRITICAL REACTION TO RECENT SWEDISH POLICIES IN THE SOVIET PRESS, PALME REPLIED "THAT IS ANOTHER MATTER," SINCE CRITICISM OF SWEDEN HAS APPEARED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE SOVIET PRESS. HE ADDED "THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE AND WE MUST LIVE WITH IT." PALME ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE HAS A STANDING INVITATION BY PRIME MINISTER KOSYGIN TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION, ALTHOUGH NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ON THE TIMING OF SUCH A VISIT.

3. THE SWEDISH RADIO ALSO QUOTED FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN AS SAYING THAT THE CRITICAL STATEMENTS BY FINNS OF SWEDISH NEUTRALITY "EXPRESS MORE OR LESS PRIVATE OPINIONS WHICH HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE POLICIES OF THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT. OUR FOREIGN POLICY CONTINUES AS BEFORE." ACCORDING TO THE SWEDISH RADIO, KARJALAINEN'S SENTIMENTS WERE ECHOED BY THE FINNISH MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ULF SUNDQVIST (SOC. DEM.), WHO SAID IN REYKJAVIK THAT FINLAND'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATS DO NOT RPT NOT SHARE TUOMIOJA'S CONCLUSIONS.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE, PALME-SORSA MEETING AND STATEMENTS BY KARJALAINEN AND SUNDQVIST HAVE EFFECTIVELY REMOVED ISSUE WHICH COULD HAVE CAUSED SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING IN HISTORICALLY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY SWEDISH-FINNISH RELATIONS. FROM THEIR SIDE, SWEDES INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE RECENT FINNISH CRITICISM TO HELSINKI'S NEED TO REASSURE MOSCOW IT IS NOT DEVIATING FROM ITS OWN TRADITIONAL NEUTRALITY POLICY, PARTICULARLY AFTER SOVIET PRESS HAD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STOCKH 00792 190826Z

RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT SWEDISH NEUTRALITY. IN THWS CONNECTION, MFA OFFICIAL INFORMS US THAT DURING VISIT TO STOCKHOLM OF FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER FEB. 14, FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON DEPARTED FROM PREPARED AGENDA TO MAKE STATEMENT REJECTING RECENT SOVIET AND FINNISH CRITICISM OF SWEDISH NEUTRALITY AND INSISTING THAT SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY REMAINS UNCHANGED. OFFICIAL ADDED THAT SWEDES WERE PLEASED BY GENSCHER'S SUBSEQUENT

REMARKS TO PRESS THAT FRG CONSIDERED SWEDISH NEUTRALITY  
POLICY AS IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR STABILITY IN NORTHERN  
EUROPE.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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